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the People of Japan

PRESS RELEASE

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Japan Formalises Additional Grant Aid for Procurement of Fish Collection Vessel

The Government of Japan will provide additional funding worth 150 million JPY or app. 1.6 million AUD to the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development for the procurement of a fish collection vessel under the Government of Japan's "Economic Social Development Programme" (ESDP). The assistance is in addition to the 500 million JPY or appx 5.5 million AUD that signed in May 2022, essentially increasing the overall grant to 650 million JPY or 7.1 million AUD.

Mr. IKEDA Hirotugu, Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Japan in Kiribati and Dr. Agnes Yeeting Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development (MFMRD) will sign the Exchange of Notes at **10:00am on 28 February 2023 at MFMRD's boardroom.**

For further queries please contact Ms. TIROI NANOUA nanoua.tiroi@tw.mofa.go.jp and Mr. Peni Saurara peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp and telephone number: **730-15314.**

Details of the Fish Collection Vessel

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development will receive a total Grant Aid of 650million Japanese Yen (app. AU\$7.1million) for the procurement of a fish collection vessel under Japan's Economic Social Development Programme. The initial grand of 500 million JPY or appx AU\$5.5 million was signed in May 2022 and an additional funding of 150 million JPY or appx AU\$1.7 million will be provided through this second grant aid signing.

The fish collection vessel will have a significant a contribution in bridging the gap related to the untimely collection of fish from the outer islands. It will ensure an ongoing and regular supply of fresh quality of fish including tuna to the urban market in Tarawa from outer islands through fish centres. The provision of a designated vessel to ensure a timely collection of fish from the outer island will provide an alternative to people on the outer islands to generate income. The primary purpose of the Fish Collection Vessel is to transport fish from all fishing centres and other related materials between Tarawa and outer islands under the MFMRD and CPPL's scheme.

In essence the vessel will be used for the following purpose;

- To transport fish from the Outer Island fishing centres to the Capital (South Tarawa);
- Enhancing food security for people living on South Tarawa.
- Provide income generating options to people living in the outer islands
- To assist Coastal Fisheries Division in carrying trainings in Tarawa and Outer Islands and;
- To assist Coastal Fisheries Division to continuing implemented fisheries related activities in the Outer islands.

Economic Social Development Programme:

Japan's grant aid, 'Economic Social Development Programme', is a type of assistance, which is intended to support the socio-economic development efforts, including poverty reduction, of developing countries mainly through procurement of equipment, machinery and other amenities (industrial materials such as petroleum and steel products etc.).

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